

Nebraska Department of Education
2010 Descriptive Writing Assessment
Grade 8

Student Instructions for Writing

Please read these instructions silently as your teacher reads them aloud.

For the next two days you will participate in an assessment that asks each fourth grade student to write on one topic. You will have 40 minutes on each day to work on your writing. It is important that you not talk with anyone else during these sessions so that everyone can concentrate. If you finish early, turn in your assessment materials to your teacher. Then you may read or work on some activity on your own while others finish their writing.

Instructions for Day 1

Today you will begin your work on this writing assessment by:

- reading the topic
- thinking of some ideas and
- completing your rough draft.

While you are working today you will use your own paper or paper given to you by your teacher. Dictionaries and thesauruses are available in the room, and you may use them whenever you wish.

At the end of the 40-minute session today your teacher will collect your notes and rough draft. Tomorrow they will be returned to you so that you may continue working.

Now please look at the writing topic below. Listen carefully as your teacher reads it and then begin working.

Instructions for Day 2

You should use your time today to:

- re-read the writing topic, your notes and your rough draft,
- make revisions to your rough draft and
- prepare a final copy of your writing.

Your final copy should be written on the pages provided in this test booklet. Please write on only one side of the page. If you need additional pages, you may use paper provided by your teacher. Your final copy may be written in blue or black ink.

Now re-read the writing topic below silently as your teacher reads it aloud. Then begin working.

Writing Topic

This year's prompt will go here.